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gathered and studied. Forster's name, *ampullatus*, revived by Rhoads (*Science*, N. S., vol. 15, p. 756, 1902) appears to have escaped the compiler, and seems applicable in place of *rostratus* for *Hyperoödon*. Four new generic names are proposed, to take the place of others that are preoccupied. *Sphenodontherium* for *Sphenodon*, *Heterodontherium* for *Heterodon*, and *Propareutatus* for *Pareutatus* among the *Edentata*, and *Odontocyrtus* for *Kurtodon* among the *Marsupialia*. The compiler also deems it necessary to amend the name *Tatu* to *Tatus*. The index includes those specific names only that have figured in works published since the previous catalogue.

G. M. A.

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## BOTANY.

**Britton's Manual.**<sup>1</sup>—In form, the recently issued second edition of this now well known work conforms closely to the first edition published in 1901. Analytical keys to the families, prepared by Wiegand, have been added to the prefatory matter, and a key to the genera of *Compositæ*, also prepared by him, has been placed at the end of the treatment of that family. The lamentable absence of necessary synonymy from the first edition has been rectified to a considerable extent; and in addition to such corrections as were possible in the original text, the appendix has been amplified by the incorporation of descriptions of over 100 species not recognized in the earlier edition, while, *e. g.*, under *Cratægus*, the fact that still others have been published is indicated.

W. T.

**A New North American Flora.**<sup>2</sup>—Since the appearance some years ago of the latest fascicle of the *Synoptical Flora* begun by Asa Gray, there has been no evident effort to provide a collective systematic treatment of the plants of the entire United States, though several handbooks covering a part of the country have appeared.

The fascicle now under review, though pertaining to a volume far

<sup>1</sup>Britton, N. L. *Manual of the Flora of the Northern States and Canada*. New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1905. 8vo, 2 ed., revised and enlarged, xxiv + 1112 pp.

<sup>2</sup>*North America Flora*, vol. 22, part 1.—Published by the New York Botanical Garden, May 22, 1905. Large 8vo, 80 pp. \$1.50.

advanced in the series is in reality the initial number of a new work which is intended to describe the wild plants of all groups not only of the United States but of the remainder of North America, including the West Indies. The editorial management has been undertaken by Doctors Britton and Underwood, who have associated with themselves an advisory committee of representative American botanists, and who depend upon the collaboration of a large number of specialists. Thirty volumes of four or five fascicles each are in contemplation, and a special fund set aside for this purpose by the New York Botanical Garden provides for the publication of the several parts as they are prepared.

The present fascicle, which is attractively printed and provided with analytical keys for all of the groups treated, is devoted to the first four (Podostemonaceæ, Crassulaceæ, Penthoraceæ, and Parnassiaceæ) of the twenty-four families recognized as representing the order Rosales; the first being handled by Nash, the second by Britton and Rose, and the third and fourth by Rydberg, the ordinal key and description being by Small.

So large an undertaking is subject to many dangers and is certain to suffer many mishaps; and, considering the imperfect herbarium data and the impossibility of extensive field research if the work is to be pushed forward with any speed, it may be said that each fascicle is likely to become antiquated in a very short time after its publication, so far, at least, as the tropical regions are concerned,—the more rapidly, indeed, in proportion to its own critical excellence. There appears to be no other way, however, of making possible the ultimately complete flora of this enormous and botanically rich territory that every botanist feels the need of, and the editors should count on the active support of all who can help them forward with their plans.

W. T.

**Ames's Studies in the Family Orchidaceæ.**<sup>1</sup>—A new irregular-interval publication, somewhat comparable with *Hooker's Icones Plantarum*, the *Icones Selectæ Horti Thenensis*, etc., has been launched under the auspices of a publisher's house which does only good and attractive work. Its purpose is to present the results of investigation on one of the largest and best known collections of

<sup>1</sup> Ames, Oakes. *Orchidaceæ. Illustrations and Studies of the Family Orchidaceæ, issuing from the Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts.* Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1905. 8vo, fasc. 1, vi + 156 pp., 16 pls.